



*Active-duty personnel, dependents, and retirees receive their medical care at military hospitals.*

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## Graduate Education in Medicine

Additional graduate-level medical education follows medical school and is a prerequisite for independent practice and licensure. Graduates of the School of Medicine, with rare exceptions, must spend the first year after graduation in an internship or its equivalent, designated as Graduate Medical Education-1 (GME-1). Following this, graduates become eligible either for further specialty training or for a nontraining assignment, which begins their period of obligatory service.

### Graduate Medical Education-1

Graduates of the School of Medicine are required to apply for GME-1 internships in approved programs in teaching hospitals of their respective services. They can choose from a range of medical specialty areas including internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, family practice, neurology, psychiatry, and obstetrics and gynecology. Those undecided about their specialty or who do not require a specialty internship may choose a transitional internship, which rotates the intern through several different medical services over the course of the year.

Internships are competitive; thus, a graduate of the School of Medicine is not assured a first-choice internship in a particular service's teaching hospital.

## Residency Training

Following GME-1, the first year of graduate medical education, candidates seeking further specialty training are selected on a competitive basis for residency assignments depending on the needs of the medical departments.

Graduates may be required to serve in operational assignments as general medical officers before becoming eligible for specialty or subspecialty training.



## Service Obligations

The service obligation for the four-year undergraduate medical program is seven years of active duty plus six years of listing on the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) roster. (See Chapter 6, under *Service Obligation*.) No additional service obligation is incurred for GME-1, and time spent in this training is creditable in computing eligibility for retirement. It is not, however, creditable toward satisfying the seven-year obligation incurred from undergraduate medical studies.

Time spent in a residency does not count toward satisfying the service obligation incurred from participation in the undergraduate medical program of the School of Medicine but is creditable in determining retirement eligibility. In general, students who take residency training in service medical teaching facilities do not accrue an

TABLE 1

**Summary of Training, Obligatory Service Incurred,  
and Service Creditable Toward Retirement Eligibility**

<b>Training</b>	<b>Years</b>
Medical School	4
Internship	1
Residency (in a uniformed service medical facility)	3 (avg)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Obligation</b>	
Medical School	7 (+6 IRR)
<b>Total Obligation:</b>	<b>15 (avg)</b>
(Total service minus 4 years for medical school):	-4
Years of service creditable toward retirement	11

additional service obligation for that residency training if they currently have an existing service obligation equal to or greater than the length of the residency.

Therefore, to complete GME-1 and a residency program and fulfill all payback requirements, including the initial obligation for medical school, the average graduate spends approximately 11 years on active duty after receiving the M.D. degree. (See Table 1 for undergraduate and graduate medical education payback requirements.)

## National Capital Consortium

The School of Medicine is a charter member of the National Capital Consortium, which includes Malcolm Grow Medical Center, National Naval Medical Center, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The consortium sponsors 64 internships, residencies, and fellowships in virtually all major disciplines. Trainees in these programs are frequently graduates of the School of Medicine and provide new graduates with invaluable mentorship, teaching, and role models in the local teaching hospitals. USUHS graduates in other military teaching hospitals provide comparable support to new trainees during rotations through their facilities.

